

LISTING OF CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for immobilizing a patient's sacroiliac joint through a passageway provided by an extra-articular recess into the sacroiliac joint wherein the sacroiliac joint and the extra-articular recess are formed by a surface of an ilium bone and a surface of a sacrum bone, the method comprising inserting an immobilization/fusion element into the ~~opening of the sacroiliac joint along the crack of the joint or extra-articular recess~~ between the ilium and the sacrum bones through the extra-articular recess to provide distracting forces resulting in ligamentotaxis to drive apart the surfaces of the ilium and sacrum bones that form the sacroiliac joint and adjoining surfaces of the extra-articular recess, wherein the element is inserted through a cannula, over a pin, or both, that is placed through an incision formed in the patient to immobilize the sacroiliac joint.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising drilling a region at the sacroiliac joint through the cannula.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising placing a guide pin through the cannula.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the guide pin is place using real time imaging.

25-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising positioning the cannula with a trocar.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising placement of a second immobilization/fusion element within the opening of the sacroiliac joint.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element is associated with a bioactive agent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the bioactive active agent comprises bone morphogenic protein or a cytokine effective to stimulate bone marrow growth.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element comprises a screw.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the screw is a self-tapping screw.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element comprises an unthreaded pin.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element has a central channel and is inserted over a guide pin.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the drilling step is performed using a drilling guide.